(iii) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

(iv) National Urban Renewal Mission and

(v) Bharat Nirman

Sector-wise details are given in the Mid-Term Appraisal of Tenth Five Year Plan, a copy of which is placed in the Parliament Library.

People living below poverty line

1074. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a recent report it has been revealed that 260 million Indians are still below poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the steps proposed to be taken up by Government in view of these findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the recent report brought out by the Council for Social Development, published by Oxford University Press, namely. 'India Social Development Report', it has been stated that 260 million Indians are still below poverty line according to 1999-2000 data (page no. 2, Table No. 1.1 of the Report). It may be mentioned that this figure is taken from the official poverty estimates brought out by the Planning Commission on the basis of NSS 55th round of large scale sample survey on household consumer expenditure, which was conducted during the year 1999-2000. The state-wise details of incident of poverty by official methodology of Planning Commission is given in Statement-I. (*See* below)

(c) The Government has adopted a three pronged strategy for reducing poverty (i) acceleration of economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive; (ii) human and social development through provision of basic minimum services; and (iii) targeted anti poverty programmes.

The details of the Schemes/programmes made and being

implemented by the Union Government in the country to eliminate poverty are as follows:

In rural areas the programmes which are being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development for upliftment of BPL families are (i) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), (ii) Swaranajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), (iii) Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), (iv) National Food for Works Programme (NFFWP) and (v) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. A note on the Rural Poverty Alleviation Programmes is at Statement-II. (*See* below)

In urban areas, with a view to ameliorate the living conditions of the urban poor, and to reduce the urban poverty in the country, Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation is implementing an employment oriented Centrally Sponsored urban poverty alleviation programme namely Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) on all India baiss *w.e.f.* 1.12.1997. This programme seeks to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or underemployed poor through setting up of micro enterprises and also through provision of Wage Employment by utilizing their labour for construction of useful public asets. There is another programme called 'Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana' (VAMBAY) which was introduced in 2001-02 to meet the long-standing gap in programmes for slum-dwellers, *viz.* provision of a shelter or upgrading the existing shelter of people living below the poverty line in urban slums. National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) is an ACA scheme under the State Sector meant for providing shelter and environmental upgradation for the urban slum dwellers. A note on Urban Poverty Alleviation Programmes/Schemes is given as Statement-III. (*See below*)

In Addition to this, the Public Distribution System in India has been more focused and targeted towards the very poor category. The "Antyodaya Anna Yojana" provides 35 kgs of foodgrains to the poorest of the poor families at a highly subsidized rate of Rs. 2 per kg., for wheat and Rs. 3 per kg., for rice. Recently, the coverage of Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been expanded from 2.0 crore (BPL) families to 2.5 crore families in 2005. The State Governments have been advised to give priority to the households from the poorest and the backward blocks and/or where nutritional deficiency is more widespread, while identifying the beneficiaries.

Statement-I

Number and Percentage of Poupulation Below Poverty Line by States- 1999-2000

Sl. No.	States/UT.'s	Rural		Urban		Combined	
		No. of Persons (Lakhs)	%of Persons	No. of Persons Lakhs)	% of Persons	No of. Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	58.13	11.05	60.88	26.63	119.01	15.77
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.80	40.04	0.18	7.47	3.98	33.47
3.	Assam	92.17	40.04	2.38	7.47	94.55	36.09
4.	Bihar	376.51	44.30	49 13	32.91	425.64	42.60
5.	Goa	0.11	1.35	0.59	7.52	0.70	4.40
6.	Gujarat	39.80	13.17	28.09	15.59	67.89	14.07
7.	Haryana	11.94	8.27	5.39	9.99	17.34	8.74
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4.84	7.94	0.29	4.63	5.12	7.63
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.97	3.97	0.49	1.98	3.46	3.48
10.	Karnataka	59.91	17.38	44.49	25.25	104.40	20.44
11.	Kerala	20.97	9.38	20.07	20.27	41.04	12.72
12.	Madhya Pradesh	217.32	37.06	81.22	38.44	298.54	37.43
13.	Maharashtra	125.12	23.72	102.87	26.81	227.99	25.02
14.	Manipur	6.53	40.04	0.66	7.47	7.19	28.54
15.	Meghalaya	7.89	40.04	0.34	7.47	8.23	33.87
16.	Mizoram	1.40	40.04	0.45	7.47	1.85	19.47
17.	Nagaland	5.21	40.04	0.28	7.47	5.49	32.67
18.	Orissa	143.69	48.01	25.40	42.83	169.09	47.15
19.	Punjab	10.20	6.35	4.29	5.75	14.49	6.16
20.	Rajasthan	55.06	13.74	26.78	19.85	81.83	15.28
21.	Sikkim	2.00	40.04	0.04	7.47	2.05	36.55

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
22.	Tamil Nadu	80.51	20.55	49.97	22.11	130.48	21.12
23.	Tripura	12.53	.40.04	0.49	7.47	13.02	34.44
24.	Uttar Pradesh	412.01	31.22	117.88	30.89	529.89	31.15
25.	West Bengal	180.11	31.85	33.38	14.86	213.49	27.02
26.	A & N Island	0.58	20.55	0.24	22.11	0.82	20.99
27.	Chandigarh	0.06	5.75	0.45	5.75	0.51	5.75
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.30	17.57	0.03	13.52	0.33	17.14
29.	Daman & Diu	0.01	1.35	0.05	7.52	0.06	4.44
30.	Delhi	0.07	0.40	11.42	9.42	11.49	8.23
31.	Lakshadweep	0.03	9.38	0.08	20.27	0.11	15.60
32.	Pondicherry	0.64	20.55	1.77	22.11	2.41	21.67
	ALL INDIA:	1932.43	27.09	670.07	23.62	2602.50	26.10

NOTE:

1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
2. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.
3. Poverty Line of Himachal Pradesh and expenditure distribution of Jammu & Kashmir is used to estimate poverty ratio of Jammu & Kashmir.
4. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A &-N Island.
5. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.
6. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
7. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.
8. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.

Statement-II

Note on Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme/Schemes

(i) **SWARNAJAYANTI GRAM SWAROZGAR YOJANA (SGSY)**

The Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is an integrated programme for self-employment of the rural poor launched on 1 April 1999 following the restructuring of the erstwhile Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and allied schemes. The objective of the SGSY is to bring the assisted poor families (Swarozgaris) above the poverty line by organising them into self-help groups (SHGs), training them and helping them in capacity building and provision of income generating assets through bank credit and government subsidy. Other important components of the programme are: development of infrastructure, establishment of marketing linkages and providing technological support. The programme has in-built safeguards for the weaker sections with 50 per cent benefits reserved for scheduled castes/ scheduled tribes (SC/ST). In addition, 50 per cent of the groups formed in each block are expected to be exclusively for women who will account for at least 40 per cent of the Swarozgaris.

(ii) **NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT (NREGA)**

The Government has enacted National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in September, 2005. The Act guarantees 100 days of employment in a financial year to any rural household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual work. The Act will be applicable to areas notified by the Central Government and will cover the whole country within five years. In the first phase, the NREGA has been launched on 2nd February, 2006 in 200 districts across the country, out of which 150 are those where National Food For Work Programme (NFFWP) was in existence and 50 other Districts have been identified.

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act aims to enhance the livelihood security of the people in rural areas by generating wage employment through works that develop the infrastructure base of that area. The choice of works suggested addresses causes of chronic poverty like drought, deforestation, soil erosion. The Act envisages a collaborative partnership between the Centre and State Governments, the Panchayats and the local community. The Panchayats at each level are the "Principal

Authorities for Planning, Implementation and Monitoring of the Act". Gram Panchayat is responsible for planning, registering, issuing Job Cards to beneficiaries, allocating employment and monitoring of works. Detailed provisions for planning, monitoring and evaluation, transparency, public accountability, social audit and convergence with other social sector programmes have been incorporated in the operational guidelines for NREGA.

(iii) **SAMPOORNA GRAMEEN ROZGAR YOJANA (SGRY)**

The Sampoorna Grammen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) is a wage employment scheme launched in September, 2001, and the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) were merged under this programme from First April 2002. The primary objective of the scheme is to provide additional wage employment in all rural areas and thereby provide food security and improve nutritional levels. The secondary objective is the creation of durable community, social and economic assets and infrastructure development in rural areas. A special component under SGRY provides foodgrains to calamity stricken states for undertaking relief activities. Thirty per cent of employment opportunities under the programme are reserved for women. The programme is implemented through the panchayat raj institutions (PRIs).

Each zilla parishad/DRDA, intermediate level and village panchayat prepares an annual action plan to include the works to be undertaken under the scheme. Completion of incomplete works is given priority and emphasis is laid on labour-intensive works. Priority is to be given to soil and moisture conservation, minor irrigation, rejuvenation of drinking water sources, augmentation of ground water, traditional water harvesting structure, desiltation of village tanks/ponds, construction of rural link roads, drainage works, afforestation, school, kitchen sheds for schools, dispensaries, community centres, panchayat ghars, development of haats (markets), etc. However, the nature of works should be such that they could be completed in one or two years. Up to a maximum of 15 per cent of the funds can be spent on maintenance of assets created under the programme by the zilla parishads/DRDAs/intermediate panchayats/village panchayats.

(iv) **NATIONAL FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAMME (NFFWP)**

The National Food for Work Programme was launched in 150 most backward districts of the country from November 2004. The objective of

the programme was to provide additional resources to 150 most backward districts of the country so that generation of supplementary wage employment and provision of food security through creation of need based economic, social and community assets in these districts is further intensified. With effect from 2nd February, 2006, the NREGA is operational in the 150 NFFWP districts.

(v) **INDIRA AWAAS YOJANA (IAY)**

The composite multi pronged strategy for housing has been operationalised *w.e.f.* 1999-2000. The Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) is the major scheme for construction of houses to be given to the poor, free of cost. It has an additional component, namely, conversion of unserviceable kutcha houses to semi pucca houses. Further, a Credit-cum-Subsidy Scheme for rural housing was launched from 1.4.1999 targetting rural families having annual income up to Rs. 32,000.

The ceiling on construction assistance was revised on 1 April 2004 and currently is set at Rs. 25,000 per unit for the plain areas and Rs. 27,500 for the hilly/difficult areas.

Statement-III

Note on Urban Poverty Alleviation Programmes/Schemes

In this regard, it is informed that a monitorable target of reduction of poverty ratio by 5 percentage point by 2007 has been fixed in the Tenth Five Year Plan. However, there is no specific mention about urban poverty. Further, it is informed that the progress of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) which is the only poverty alleviation scheme, rests with the Ministry itself. In addition to this, VAMBAY and NSDP programmes which are meant for providing shelter/upgradation of shelter and environmental upgradation for the urban slum dwellers, also contribute indirectly towards poverty alleviation. The scheme/programme-wise details are given below:—

SJSRY— Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) which is funded on 75:25 basis between Centre and States. This scheme is continuing since 1997-98 & is the only scheme for urban employment aims to provide gainful employment through setting up of self-employment ventures or provisions of wage employment.

During the first four years of the tenth plan, Rs. 493 crore is expected to be utilized as against the Tenth plan allocation of Rs. 541 crore. This is a demand-driven scheme, however, an annual target of 80,000 under self employment/Development of Women and Child in Urban Areas (subsidy component) and 1 lakh persons under the training component have been fixed by the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation. During the first three years of the Tenth Plan, 297419 persons have been provided self-employment while 327399 persons have been trained during the same period as reported by the Ministry.

VAMBAY— The Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) was introduced in 2001-02 to meet the long-standing gap in programmes for slum-dwellers, *viz* provision of a shelter or upgrading the existing shelter of people living below the poverty line in urban slums. Under VAMBAY, Govt. of India provides 50% central subsidy while the states have the option to obilize its matching portion of 50% from other sources, such as their own budget provision, resources of local bodies, loans from other agencies, contributions from beneficiaries or NGOs etc. Under this scheme, 20% of the total allocation is provided for sanitation and community toilets to be built for the urban poor and slum dwellers.

During the first four years of the Tenth Plan, Rs. 975.31 crore expected to be utilized under the scheme as against the Tenth Plan allocation of Rs. 2043 crore. Against the target of 1 lakh, 1.06 lakh and 1.12 lakh dwelling units under VAMBAY for the first three years of the Tenth Plan, construction of 1,10,388, 1,08,376 and 1,13,004 dwelling units respectively were covered.

NSDP— National Slum Development Programme which is an ACA scheme under the State Sector meant for providing shelter and environmental upgradation for the urban slum dwellers. Out of the allocation of Rs. 1429 crore, an amount of Rs. 1282.30 was released and an expenditure of Rs. 866.99 crore has been reported during the first three years of the Tenth Plan under NSDP. Since the inception of the scheme from 1996-97 and up to 2004-05 (as on 30.6.2005), 413.06 lakh persons covering 68129 slum pockets in 2573 towns were benefited under the scheme.